



SN 09/229,229

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Geoffrey M. Wahl et al.

Examiner: Anne L. Holleran, Ph.D.

Serial No.: 09/229,229

Group Art Unit: 1642

Filed: January 12, 1999

Docket: 1211.010US1

Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TREATING CELLS HAVING
DOUBLE MINUTE DNA

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AUG 08 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 28, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled "Clean Version of Pending Claims" for the previously pending claim set. Specific amendments to individual claims are detailed in the following marked up set of claims.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended). A method of identifying a therapeutic agent, which decreases the presence of double minute chromosomes or extrachromosomal DNA in a cell, comprising:

contacting a portion of test cells with a potential therapeutic agent to produce treated test cells wherein the test cells contain a known level of double minute chromosomes or extrachromosomal DNA and are capable of undergoing micronucleation; and assaying the treated test cells to determine their level of micronucleation of double minute chromosomes or extrachromosomal DNA, wherein an increased level of micronucleation and decreased level of double minute chromosomes or extrachromosomal DNA relative to that of an untreated portion of test cells indicates that the potential therapeutic agent is an actual therapeutic agent.